From the School of Accounting—Rita Grant, Director

Welcome to Fall Semester 2013. I hope it is a productive semester for all of you. If you are an Accounting major or MSA student, please be aware of the Pre-Recruiting event September 5 and 6. Make sure you have your resume updated and loaded on Laker Jobs. Go to one of the Information Sessions sponsored by Career Services and the School of Accounting so you are aware of the process for trying to get interviews and the availability of internship credit. We have a record number of employers interviewing this year and you want to be prepared.

If you are an ACC 212 or 213 student, be aware that we have tutoring available downtown in the William Seidman Building (2018 SCB). Your professor will inform you of the schedule. If you are interested in majoring in accounting, don’t hesitate to contact a faculty member to discuss the career opportunities and to plan your future semesters. Be aware that you should take ACC 240 as soon as possible after ACC 212 since it is a prerequisite for ACC 310 and ACC 340.

If you are an accounting major or are considering majoring in accounting, explore our student organizations. We have a Beta Alpha Psi chapter (International Honor Society for accounting students), a Student Institute of Management Accountants chapter and a Student Institute of Internal Auditors chapter. These groups are a great source of information about the profession, a good way to meet other accounting majors and an opportunity to develop your leadership skills.

Take advantage of the opportunities that are available and have a great semester.

Project Run With It
Reported by Sam Schaeffler

At Beta Alpha Psi’s national conference this summer in Anaheim, California, I participated in a competition called Project Run With It (PRWI). PRWI provides members of BAP an opportunity to engage in a real-world consulting project. We were paired off into teams of four to develop solutions to real life business problems of actual not-for-profit (NFP) organizations located in the LA area. We had a day and a half to develop a formal presentation showcasing our solutions and present it to a panel of judges including representatives from the NFP.

This was an amazing opportunity. I was able to meet new people and to work in a real life situation. My team worked non-stop to come up with creative solutions that would help our NFP and we were fortunate enough to come in first place. Each team member received $1,000 for their respective chapters.

Pre-Recruiting September 5 and 6. See the Beta Alpha Psi website for more information.

The Tower & Hampton Court — beheadings, infidelity & opulence!

London Study Abroad – Summer 2013
Departed Grand Rapids @ 7:45PM Friday & arrive @ Heathrow 10:25PM Saturday.

Some of the things we did: Harry Potter tour; London Eye; Jack the Ripper Tour; The Business of Wimbledon; Legal London; Punjab Indian Food; Institute of Chartered Accounts of England and Wales; Bank of England Museum; Beatles Magical Mystery tour; Harrods; London Metals Exchange; Lloyds of London; BDO; Old Kensington Tour; British Museum; National Gallery; Historic Greenwich; Buckingham Palace; Tower of London; Hampton Court; Westminster Abbey; St. Paul’s; Cambridge; Shakespeare’s Globe Tour; Founder’s Arms; Midsummer Night’s Dream; House of Parliament; Westminster at War; Brighton.

This concludes our London Study Abroad trip. Cheers – I hope you had a BRILLIANT time. Contact Dori Danko (dankod@gvsu.edu) for info regarding Summer 2014 Study Abroad.

ACC 212 & ACC 213—Tutors available

School of Accounting Graduate Assistants are available to tutor ACC 212 & ACC 213 this semester, Monday-Thursday in 2018 SCB on a walk-in basis. See your instructor to get the tutor schedule, pick one up in the School of Accounting office at 3030 SCB or the tutor room, 2018 SCB. Bring your textbook and other pertinent class materials with you. Don’t wait until you are lost in a sea of debits and credits, come for help now.
Beta Alpha Psi—Steve DeWaard, Vice President

Student officers from the Kappa Beta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi just recently returned from an August trip to Anaheim, California where they attended the organization’s Annual Meeting. In attendance were students, faculty advisors, and accounting professionals from the United States and abroad. The event featured three keynote speakers: Ralph de la Vega (President and CEO-AT&T Mobility), Clark Jones (Vice President of Finance-Walt Disney Parks & Resorts), and John Blumberg (National Speaker and Author). In addition to hearing from the keynote speakers, student officers attended multiple seminar sessions featuring topics like: IPO readiness, Changes in Auditing Standards, Work/Life Integration, and Creative networking, just to name a few. Grand Valley left its mark in Anaheim when Sam Schaeffer, took home an award for her participation in a team competition called “Project Run With It.” Next year’s Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

To many accounting majors, fall means one thing, recruiting season. Beta Alpha Psi will be hosting two events at Grand Valley where local, regional, national, and international firms will be onsite to meet accounting students seeking internships and full-time employment. The events will take place on September 5th and 6th. The members of Beta encourage non-members and potential pledges to come to the events. Opportunities to meet employers in a one-on-one setting do not come along often, and the pre-recruiting events are a great way to make a strong first impression.

Aside from the pre-recruiting events, Beta Alpha Psi has a strong schedule of events in store for members and pledges. The organization meets each Thursday evening at 6 p.m. The fall semester events are largely focused on visiting Public Accounting Firms in the Grand Rapids area. In addition to firm visits, the chapter will host social events and guest speakers. Accounting students who are interested in joining BAP should check our website (gvsu.edu/bap) for requirement information regarding induction into the chapter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

9/10/13
Come meet some UHY professionals on Tuesday, September 10 from 10:30-2:30 in the Seidman Building, 1st floor, table located by staircase in main lobby. They will have information for you on UHY and it will allow you the opportunity to build your personal brand with their staff. Stop by to introduce yourself.

9/12/13
Ernst & Young will be here on Thursday, September 12 from 10:30-1:30, in the Seidman Building, 1st floor, table located by staircase in main lobby. Stop by to meet the recruiters and learn about the opportunities offered by E&Y.

IMA Student Chapter

The Student Chapter of IMA at GVSU is dedicated to educating students of Accounting and Finance about the profession of Management Accountancy. The purpose of this organization is to provide networking, learning and career opportunities for students interested in management accounting. It encourages the highest ethical standards and promotes professionalism in the dynamic world of managerial accounting by networking with other students, faculty, and business professionals. Through professional events, such as guest speakers, lectures about current events in the fields of accounting and finance and recruiting events, students will gain valuable professional credentials along with various professional opportunities.

Last year we toured businesses such as Steelcase and Stryker, hosted speakers such as Nelson VanElderen on Excel techniques and Troy Farley of the career center, and volunteered at Habitat for Humanity among other things. The best thing was attending the IMA National Conference in San Antonio. Between the networking opportunities, career development sessions, and participating in activities designed for student leaders, the conference more than exceeded our expectations. Throughout the conference we were able to listen to professionals who discussed important topics such as finding and becoming a good mentor, time management and career planning, the importance of budgeting in business, and learning how to handle the fear of public speaking. We also had the opportunity to network with faculty and students from different schools across the nation making this trip that much better. We met and became connected with several students from Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Arizona, Hawaii, Wisconsin, Ohio, and New Jersey to name a few.

Outside of the actual conference and sessions we attended as a group, the city of San Antonio was incredible. I had seen pictures online before of the River Walk and of downtown San Antonio, but nothing compared to actually being there and experiencing it in person. The River Walk itself blew me away. Between taking the boat ferry up the river, seeing all the lights, extravagant architecture, and the numerous shops and restaurants that lined the river, it was quite the experience. In addition to spending time down at the River Walk, our group also toured the Alamo, went line dancing at the Cowboy Dance Hall, attended a concert by the Spazmatics, and attended the season home opener basketball game between the San Antonio Spurs and the Oklahoma City Thunder, all as part of the IMA Student Leadership Conference. We are all looking forward to this year’s event in Charlotte, NC.

President: Andrew Rusnell
Vice President: William Maple
Secretary: Lauren Centers
Treasurer: Kristin Clark
Community Involvement Coordinator: Daniel Mucha
Faculty Advisors: Paulette Ratliff-Miller & David Centers

ACADEMIC ADVISING:

See your accounting faculty advisor early in your academic career to make sure you are on the right path. Scheduling can be complicated with prerequisites, internships, emphases, and other options. Planning ahead will help you smoothly move through your program.